

Insert the Abstract as follows:

**ABSTRACT**

A stainless steel, which after nitriding exhibits a hardened surface layer with a hardness of at least 1200 Hv is disclosed. The stainless steel can be in the form of wire, plate, strip, tube and pipe and other geometries, especially complex geometries, particularly useful in applications with high demands on a combination of high strength and/or toughness and wear resistance and as a substrate for coating.